Middle School Grading Changes
Effective 2015-2016

Presented by
Dan Baginski, Director of Assessment

Approved by the Board of Education May 2015
This presentation details the recommendations that were accepted by the Board of Education and will be part of our grading procedures beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.
Middle School Grading Committee

- Dan Baginski, *Director of Assessment*
- Kurt Holtz, *Director of Guidance*
- Robert Rotante, *Director of Curriculum – STEM*
- Wendy Hille, *Guidance Counselor – McAuliffe*
- Victoria O’Donnell, *Social Studies Teacher – McAuliffe*
- Nicholas Caruso, *Health and Physical Education Teacher – McAuliffe*
- Jillian Cumberton, *Math Teacher – McAuliffe*
- Alison Figueroa, *Music Teacher – McAuliffe*
- Sue Gansman, *Guidance Counselor – Goetz*
- Elaine Holleran, *English Language Arts Teacher – Goetz*
- Chris Zammit, *Science Teacher – Goetz*
- Mary Traina, *Special Education Teacher – Goetz*
- Helene Capicotto, *Art Teacher – Goetz*
- Dan Coviello, *District Genesis Manager*
Middle School Grading Changes Effective 2015-2016

1. All four marking period grades, and final grades should be reported numerically on a 100 point system.

2. The minimum grade for any one marking period should be established as 55%.

3. The minimum final grade to “pass” any course should be established as 65% (instead of 70).

4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
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1. All four marking period grades, and final grades should be reported numerically on a 100 point system.

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3. The minimum final grade to “pass” any course should be established as 65%.

4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
Rationale for Change #1:

All marking period grades, final exam grades, and final grades should be reported numerically on a 100-point system.

Rationale:

• Converting grades in current manner has a homogenizing effect on grades
• Reporting grades numerically will maintain integrity of student’s performance
Former System

A student’s earned numerical average for a marking period

Earned numerical average is converted into an Alpha grade based on established scale

Alpha Grade is converted into a numerical equivalent

Example:

Numerical Average 92.3%

Alpha Grade B+ (89.5-92.49)

Numerical Equivalent for Alpha Grade 91.0%
New Change

A student’s earned numerical avg. for a marking period

The earned numerical grade is used to calculate student’s grade

Example:

Numerical Average 92.3%

Numerical Equivalent for Grade 92.3%
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4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
The minimum grade for any marking period or final exam should be established as 55%.

Rationale:

• Current system converts ANY failing grade to a 64, which means even a student who demonstrates minimal proficiency can still pass.

• This practice does not place enough emphasis on student achievement
Former Minimum Grade

Numerical Average
A student’s earned numerical average for a marking period

Alpha Grade
Earned numerical average is converted into an Alpha grade based on established scale

Numerical Equivalent for Alpha Grade
Alpha Grade is converted into a numerical equivalent.

Example:

Numerical Average 53%
Alpha Grade F (Below 69.5)
Numerical Equivalent for Alpha Grade 64%
New Minimum Grade Marking Period

Example #1:

- Numerical Average: 53%
- Numerical Equivalent for Grade: 55%

Example #2:

- Numerical Average: 37%
- Numerical Equivalent for Grade: 55%
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1. All four marking period grades, and final grades should be reported numerically on a 100 point system.

2. The minimum grade for any one marking period should be established as 55%.

3. **The minimum final grade to “pass” any course should be established as 65%**.

4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
Rationale for Change #3:

The minimum final grade to “pass” any course should be established as 65%.

Rationale:

• This makes the passing score consistent with the high school passing score of 65% to ensure consistency moving forward.
New Minimum Grade – End of Year

Example #1:

Numerical Average: 53%
Numerical Equivalent for Grade: 65%

Example #2:

Numerical Average: 37%
Numerical Equivalent for Grade: 65%
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4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
Rationale for Change #4:

The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

Rationale:

• Geometry (Grade 8) and Algebra (Grade 7) are two grade levels above where a typical 7th or 8th grader would be academically placed.
• Weighting these courses by a factor of 1.05 recognizes the academic rigor of these classes.
• This weighting is the same factor that is being used in our honors courses in HS. school.
• The resulting grade will need to meet the same grade criteria identified above for achieving High Honor Roll or Honor Roll status.
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4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. **The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.**

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
Rationale for Change #5:

Discontinue Formal MS Interim Reports

Rationale:

• Our former system of issuing progress reports preceded our use of the Genesis Parent Portal for real-time information.

• The Genesis Parent Portal allows parents to view their child’s progress at any time during the year.

• We will send out a mid-semester reminder to our middle school parents to ensure they are availing themselves of the opportunity to monitor their child’s progress and to enlist assistance if it is warranted.
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4. The marking period grade for 8th Grade Geometry and 7th Grade Algebra will be weighted by a factor of 1.05.

5. The district should no longer distribute Interim Progress Reports.

6. Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of this school year.
Change # 6

Department grading parameters should be reviewed and revised accordingly by the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Rationale:

• Departmental supervisors are establishing the parameters for the percentage of a grade that comes from “Assessment”, “Participation”, and “Homework.
• Departments are establishing a uniform, consistent approach in factoring in any final exam grade into the 4th Marking Period Grade.
Recommendation #7:
The criteria for recognizing “Honor Roll” students must be revised by a subcommittee of teachers and administrators.

Middle School Honor Roll Subcommittee
Debra Phillips, Principal – McAuliffe
Dr. Faith Lessig, Principal – Goetz
Wendy Hille, Guidance Counselor – McAuliffe
Eric Rado, Guidance Counselor – Goetz
Sue Gansman, Guidance Counselor – Goetz
Rylla Smith, Social Studies Teacher – McAuliffe
Marisela Gittler, World Language Teacher – McAuliffe
Cheryl Froio, Math Teacher – Goetz
Katherine Corbo, Math Teacher – Goetz
Chris Zammit, Science Teacher – Goetz
Helene Capicotto, Art Teacher – Goetz
Dan Coviello, District Genesis Manager
Kurt Holtz, Director of Guidance
Robert Rotante – Director of Curriculum – STEM
Dan Baginski, Director of Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current “High Honor Roll” Criteria</th>
<th>NEW “High Honor Roll” Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student must earn two A’s in academic subjects (Literacy, Math, Social Studies, and Science) AND no grade less than a B in any given subject</td>
<td>Student must earn a grade of <strong>95%</strong> or above in <strong>all</strong> five core subjects (Literacy, Science, Social Studies, Math, Unified Arts and Physical Education) <strong>AND</strong> a minimum grade of 85% in any elective subject</td>
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<table>
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<th>Current “Honor Roll” Criteria</th>
<th>NEW “Honor Roll” Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student must earn no grade less than a B in any given subject.</td>
<td>Student must earn a grade of <strong>90%</strong> or above in <strong>all</strong> five core subjects (Literacy, Science, Social Studies, Math, Unified Arts and Physical Education) <strong>AND</strong> a minimum grade of 80% in any elective subject</td>
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